

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 6 is allowable.

Applicants agree that the prior art does not disclose or suggest the mixed powder for powder metallurgy, as recited in claim 5, as presently amended.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7 as anticipated by Gardner et al. (U.S. 4,554,218), and the rejection of claims 1-5 and 7 as obvious over Gardner et al. in view of Miyake et al. (U.S. 6,124,381) are obviated by amendment.

As shown above, claim 5 (a mixed powder for powder metallurgy) has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, which is indicated as allowable. In addition, new claim 11 (a method for producing a mixed powder for powder metallurgy), based on original claim 7, includes the limitations of amended 5. Applicants submit that the recited prior art references do not describe or suggest the method of producing a mixed powder for powder metallurgy of new claim 11 that includes the binder described in amended claim 5.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such allowance is earnestly solicited.

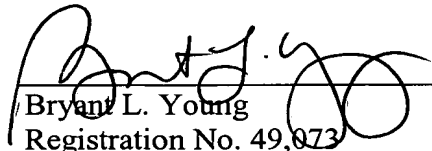
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